

Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION
14 REILLY ROAD
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1132

PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

June 5, 2002

The Honorable Paul E. Patton
State Capitol
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Patton,

The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), a seven-member citizen board that advises the Governor and other state officials on environmental matters, asks for your strong support for Congressman Hal Rogers' request in the amount of \$6.8 million to fund the Daniel Boone National Forest's (DBNF) FY 2003 land purchase program.

The President has included \$2.5 million for the Daniel Boone National Forest's FY 2003 acquisition program. We are pleased with this endorsement. However, the U.S. Forest Service indicated there are some 29,000 acres of priority tracts of land that have been targeted for purchase at a cost of \$17 million.

Congressman Hal Rogers' \$6.8 million request will allow the DBNF to purchase some of these priority sites, including 4,000 acres in the Red River Gorge. This area of the forest is known for its rugged beauty of towering cliffhines, scenic arches and deep gorges. The gorge is often called the "Grand Canyon of the East" and attracts thousands of visitors every year. Acquisition of these lands will also improve the quality of streams that supply the Kentucky River, a source of domestic water supplies for many communities along the Kentucky River.

We hope you will join us in supporting the \$6.8 million request for the Daniel Boone National Forest FY 2003 land purchase program. The Daniel Boone National Forest is one of the most heavily used forests in the South, with over 5 million visitors annually coming to backpack, camp, picnic, rock climb, boat, hunt, fish and relax. The DBNF contributes greatly to our economy and is critical to maintaining the state's biological diversity.

The Daniel Boone National Forest requires our continued support and commitment in order to continue to build it into one of the premier national forests in the South. We hope you will express your strong support to our U.S. Senators and Representatives for this funding request. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Aloma W. Dew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "Dew" part.

Aloma Dew, Chair

cc: Crit Luallen, Governor's Office
Kentucky's Congressional Delegation
James E. Bickford, Secretary, Natural Resources Cabinet
Dale Bosworth, Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Ben Worthington, Supervisor, Daniel Boone National Forest